

January 10, 1963

My dear Friedmans

Can you forgive me for letting another Christmas slink by without a word, and another New Year stretch its legs for ten days before I manage to set out after in with an ambling pace to send you all greetings for 1963. Cambridge, as you know, is very corrupting, catching one perpetually with the unexpected or the inviting or the irresistible. This place eats up ones time like a mouse at soft cheese in the quiet of the dark. I am utterly undone and losing all my friends in consequence. Please, please forgive me and let me start the New Year with a resolution to write more often.

These horrid preliminaries make me forget my chief object in writing: how are

you both? How is...Inca and the Mayan  
problem? I feel years out of touch.

Did I write to you last year? Last  
year was GHASTLY. But exciting too because  
I had the whole of the Santa Muena to  
look after by myself the Director having  
suddenly left under a cloud. It was a really  
taxing experience: I lost weight and gained  
knowledge daily. Quite exhilarating in retrospect.  
Now I am back in Cambridge with a 3 year  
Research Fellowship at Nottingham: it is  
supposed to provide a restful opportunity  
for research. I am to compile a fat and  
fondle tome. But alas this may be  
theory alone. In practice I TEACH for  
the new Faculty of Fine Arts and am  
giving some lectures, am a University  
Examiner in Art History and the Praefector

2.

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of my college. Time is scarce. It is  
rather fun doing all this because I feel  
sleeped in the University again at one  
fell swoop — and all from the unaccus-  
omed side of the fence! Even being  
Praelector is jolly as it is the job  
most redolent with tradition. I have  
to dress in all my flapping black  
and white academic stuff — mortar  
board and black boots included — and  
process to the Senate House every  
second Saturday in term to present  
candidates for degrees — all in Latin  
speeches. Quite an eye-full of University.

One thing I have been long  
saving to send to you is some secret  
CODE. It is in a manuscript by

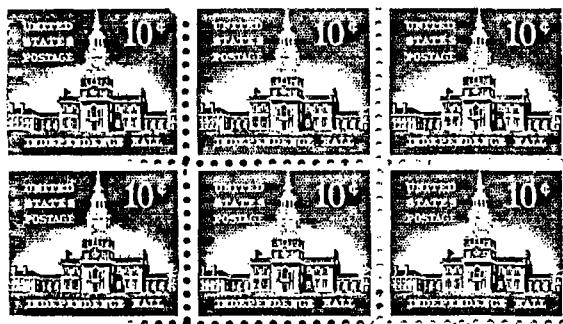
Sir Anthony Van Dyck <sup>REF ID: A2263257</sup> whom I have been.

helping Michael Jaffé to Ait for years.

It is now almost done but this horrid  
code problem remains unsolved. It would  
be lovely if you could tell us what  
it says. The manuscript is mainly  
formulae for etching etc., or remedies for  
ailments — so far it has been suggested  
that the bits in code are either a cure  
for vanical disease (!) or a super-secret  
way of making etching ground. I am  
sending a Flemish transcription and an  
English translation. If it is too much  
of an imposition please don't hesitate  
to send the whole lot back. I enclose  
some American stamps — please don't be  
insulted = it does me a kindness to

to remove them from my wallet - where  
they are sometimes a wearisome Johnson.

The only bits of code are in  
Sections 26 and 27. I have (needlessly)  
underlined them in red. The script is  
very legible in the manuscript and as  
all the blind has been  
carefully. Both transcriptions  
have been checked by



The archivist in the Rubens House  
in Antwerp. If you can from you  
great experience and sagacity not only  
Michael Jaffé and I, but also anyone  
interested in Van Dyck will be grateful  
to you — beyond measure. And so

to remove them from my wallet - where  
they are sometimes a wearisome intrusion.

The only bits of code are in  
sections 26 and 27. I have (neitherly)  
underlined them in red. The script is  
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far as I can tell the hand has been  
transcribed faithfully. Both transcription  
and translation have been checked by  
the archivist in the Rubens House  
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Michael Jaffé and I, but also everyone  
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course Michael will be delighted to be  
able to see such authority as you.

If, alas, you have no leisure or  
inclination to look at the thing now  
you perhaps recommend someone in  
England who might be able to help?

After all this is rather a forlorn  
New Year greeting, and perhaps at the end  
I ought as much to apologize as  
send my love. I hope that you both  
enjoy your health and happiness  
throughout 1963.

With every best wish and love  
from Pat. (Mina Hanson)



latse in wijn vieden ende mackt daer mede de geswollen ogen nat; dese remedie sy altemael uit eenen Holansen auteur gjenomen uit Hipocrates.

25. Heel goy remedie vor den rooden loop oft root melisoen. Nemt gebranden hertshoren in roosenwater oft weeghbree ; water gewassen ende een dragme oft ander half met wijn ingenomen daer een daer een [sic] weynich dragants in geweyckt heeft is een experte medecijn als men die tweemaels des tnachs in nemt deschelcken oock een dragme reusel van eenen ionnen haese met wijn innemt.

5 verso 26. Om een qbhū weder soo x t s te maken als een l o t z z x. w m s a u x b . nempt a x f w x t c d . n t w x t s b q f u . v m m c x t . ende . z m b c w x t c s b g f n . van e l e c x even vel carpe wel cleyn als ghij daer nu 2 hants vollen af hebt soo nempt een pont a x f z m " x b . smilt se ende doetter het uorschreuen in, lat se dan te samen sieden sachtiens een halfür lanck daer naer soo drückt het doer eenen dock en bestryckt hier mede.

27. Item nempt s m k x b b m m u . latet in put waeter smilten ende lecht er dit met een dockxken op ende men salt somtijts verduersen.

28. Om een seker pampierken te maeken met een seer goedt coelür om op te teeken met swert kryt, potloot, inckt oft iet anders dat v belieft, soo nempt serruys ende mengelt dit met int ende vryst dit samen wel fijn ende doeter soo veel oft luttel int by tot dat het v dünckt bruyen schenoch te wesen oft nempt swert cryt en moet hier in plaet vanden int hier mede bstryckt v pampier deur met een sponsi.

6 recto Om te etsen rhij sult nemen een ons witen was ende onder half ons asvaltum ende een quertien reusen hordtft ende een half ons terrementijn dat eerst sult den ansaltum cleyn brecken ende in eenen serden pot oft panneken te smilten setten; gesmolten weynden sult daer by doen den witten was oock gesmolten den reusen herft cleyn gestoeten gevnde met den termentijn daer te samen ingedoen ene oock lasten smilten maer en mach niet den berren oft te heet worden, roerret altyt om met een houten stockxken van sult den grondt altemael in coult water sitten ende wel doorchneden want by anders niet wel menselen en sou. Daer naer drocht hem af ende set hem weder in het selve panneken te smilten, dan noch een weynich gesoden he bende sult hem door een sijver

22. Remedy for badly swollen eyes after purging and making a plaster: take endive and a pinch of dandelion in equal amounts. Squeeze the juice and mix with a white of egg and a little oil of roses; soak a small piece of cloth in it and put it on your eye at night.

Idem: take boiled lentils, pour off the liquid; mix it with a little rose-water and use it in the above manner. Or take an ounce each of lentils, pomegranate peel and rose sumach [8], pound these together and make a poultice by adding rose-water. Moisten your eyes frequently with distilled rose-water or with well water in which sugar has been boiled; or take even quantities of dandelion, of the rose paste described above, and of lentils.

Idem: take prepared sarcocolla [9] and pound it in juice of aloe, and smooth it on the eyes; it is very good. But should these swollen eyes once take cold you must stop and should purge again, and use stronger things for external application: so take an ounce ~~of~~ each of white wine and rose-water, a drachm each of aloes and saffron; wash the eye-lids with this mixture; take three ounces each of water in which sumach was boiled, rose-water, white wine-stone; a drachm each of vitriol, verdigris, burnt aloes; use as a cold wash, but this is somewhat perilous.

23. Another way: take a well beaten white of egg mixed with rose-water or with oil of roses; smear frequently with this until it is dry.

24. If the swelling breaks out or becomes inflamed take a well beaten white of egg, mix it with rose-water or oil of roses and apply it [to the swelling] as often as it is dry. Two or three days later take a small bag of cammomile flowers; let it boil in wine, and moisten the swollen eyes with it. All these remedies are taken from a Dutch author based on Hippocrates.

25. Excellent remedy for red diarrhoea or bloody flux: burnt hartshorn washed in rose-water or in plantain water taken in one and a half drachms of whey in which a little box-thorn [10] has been soaked: an expert medicine when taken twice a night, as well as a drachm of lard from a young hare taken with wine.

26. To make a q b h û again like x t z, also a . l m t z z x . w m s a u x b . take equal quantities each of a x f w x t

c d . m t w x t s b q f d . v m m o x t . and z m b c w x t c s b g f n ; grate very fine; when you have two handfuls of that, take a pound of a x f z m w x b ., melt it and add the above, let them boil together slowly for half xxii an hour, after that squeeze it through linen and coat it therewith.

27. Idem: take s m k x b b m m u let it melt in well water and put it on with a small cloth which one should change from time to time.

28. To prepare a reliable paper excellently coloured for drawing with black chalk, pencil, ink or anything else you should wish, take ceruse [11], mix it very fine with ink and rub together; put in as much or as little ink as is necessary to make it brown enough; or instead of ink take black chalk and good beer and drench your paper with a sponge.

To make an etching: you should take an ounce of white wax and one and a half ounces of asphaltum [12] and a quarter of resin, and half an ounce of turpentine; then break the asphaltum into small pieces and melt it in an earthenware jar or small pan; when melted add the white wax which must also be melted, the resin pounded finely with the turpentine; let this also melt, but it must not burn or get too hot, stir it constantly with a small wooden stick; then pour it all out again into cold water and knead well, otherwise it will not mix properly. After that dry it and then melt it again in the same small pan; then after letting it boil for a while, pour it through a small piece of clean cloth, and let it drop into water again, and knead it, and make it into small pellules. If you want to prepare this for etching, heat the plate a little until the ground, which you spread with the above mentioned little pellule, begins to melt.

To prepare v rnish which is good for varnishing paintings: take two ounces of oil of turpentine to one ounce of turpentine; pour this into a glass flask and stir well over a small fire or in the sun. It should be Strasbourg turpentine. For an abcess on a tooth: take a well beaten yolk of egg, put it in a small pot and put with it the equivalent of three powdered peppercorns, and three or four of the largest grains of [illegible: "saondt" ?] and three powdered sage leaves and

26. To make a ~~Q~~ <sup>REF ID: A2263257</sup> HU AGAIN LIKE XTZ ALSO A  
ENT

LMTZZX WMSAUXB TAKE EQUAL QUANTITIES  
GNTT<sub>11</sub> SOAMLER

EACH OF AXFWXTCD MTWXTSBQFU VMMCXT  
MELTEND ONSENAR L' OODEN  
(ELGKX?)

AND ZMBCWXTCSBGFN, GRATE VERY FINE;

WHEN YOU HAVE TWO HANDFULS OF THAT,

TAKE A POUND OF AXFZMWXB, MELT IT ...  
MELTOSER

27 IDEM: TAKE SMKXBBMMU ...  
AOVERROO

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
||||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||

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